IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 31 as follows:

Host computer 401 executes an application program 403 that reads and writes units of data, and an application programming interface (API) 405 that is adapted to interface with the storage system [[405]] 407. Host 401 may be, for example, a server that provides resources (e.g., data storage, email, and other services), a client (e.g., a general-purpose computer system operated by a user), a network component (e.g., a switch) or any other type of computer. Host 401 is coupled by a communication link 404 to storage system 407 so that the host 401 can use the storage system 407 to store and retrieve data. The link 404 can be any type of communication link, including any type of network or direct connection.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 3 as follows:

In the illustrative configuration of Figure 4, storage system 407 is a distributed storage system including a plurality of access nodes 409a, 409b, 409c, and 409d and a plurality of storage nodes 411a, 411b, 411c, and 411d. The access nodes 409 and storage nodes [[407]] 411 may be coupled in any suitable way, such as by a communications network (not shown) that employs the TCP/IP network protocol. Each access node 409 and storage node 411 may be, for example, a separate computer having independent hardware and software resources (i.e., processor or processors, memory, disk resources, operating system, storage system software), although the aspects of the present invention are not limited in this respect.